

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09992 121911Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W
-----024688 130104Z /64

R 121520Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9728

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS REVIEWS GEORGE KENNAN'S NEW BOOK

SUMMARY: BOTH IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY
ON GEORGE KENNAN'S NEW BOOK. SELECTIVE QUOTES FROM THE BOOK
ENABLE SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS TO EXPAND ON SEVERAL THEMES IN
RECENT CAMPAIGN OF STEPPED UP ATTACKS ON U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. IZVESTIYA OF JULY 11 AND PRAVDA OF JULY 12 CARRY ARTICLES
ON GEORGE KENNAN'S NEW BOOK, THE CLOUD OF DANGER (AS TRANS-
LATED BY TASS). THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL OF THESE IS PRAVDA
BOOK REVIEW BY GERASIMOV. IT QUOTES AT LENGTH FROM
KENNAN AND CONCLUDES WITH THE ADVICE THAT THE WORK BE
PLACED IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND
STATE DEPARTMENT. CURRENT TOPICS ARE BARELY TOUCHED ON IN
THE TWO ARTICLES, BUT BOTH CITE WITH APPROVAL
KENNAN'S URGING THAT THE WEST ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR
NON-FIRST-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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2. GERASIMOV BEGINS HIS ARTICLE BY CITING KENNAN'S
EARLY ROLE IN THE COLD WAR BUT POINTS OUT THAT HIS
VIEWS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERGONE "A SIGNIFICANT
EVOLUTION IN THE DIRECTION OF COMMON SENSE." GERASIMOV'S
KENNAN DISDAINFULLY DISMISSES ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSE
DETENTE OR EVEN QUESTION SOVIET MOTIVES AS HOPELESSLY

AND WILLFULLY MISINFORMED. KENNAN'S CRITICISMS OF AMERICAN LIFE ARE RECOUNTED IN DETAIL AND THE OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE BOOK IS THAT OF AN ILL-TEMPERED PHILIPPIC AGAINST A STUBBORN AND WRONGHEADED PEOPLE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN KENNAN BOOK AND WE ARE RELUCTANT TO JUDGE THE BOOK BY ITS SOVIET REVIEWS. ITS PUBLICATION AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, ENABLES THE SOVIETS TO REPEAT THEMES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMINENT IN RECENT MONTHS, INCLUDING THE BANEFUL INFLUENCE OF ANTI-SOVIETISM IN THE U.S., THE SHORTCOMINGS OF LIFE IN THE U.S., AND THE NEED TO COOPERATE ON ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. CURRENT ADMINISTRATION POLICIES ARE NOT MENTIONED, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS HOPE TO TURN KENNAN'S ARGUMENTS AGAINST THESE POLICIES. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BOOKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW09992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770248-0390
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770767/aaaacgcu.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5609e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1889973
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS REVIEWS GEORGE KENNAN'S NEW BOOK SUMMARY: BOTH IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON GEORGE KENNAN'S NEW BOOK. SELECTIVE QUO TES FRO
TAGS: SOPN, UR, US, (KENNAN, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5609e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009